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WASHINGTON (AP) - A U.S. lawmaker says more than 1,000 families have come forward to report the names of separated relatives believed to be living in North Korea. Republican Rep. Mark Kirk met Thursday with Cardinal Nicholas Cheong, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Seoul, to discuss U.S. efforts to reunite the estimated 100,000 Korean-Americans who have family members in the North.

Kirk leads a commission of 10 Republicans and Democrats working to present North Korea with information from U.S. families eager to contact North Korean relatives separated five decades ago during the Korean War.

Millions of Korean families were separated following the division of the Korean peninsula in 1945 and the 1950-53 Korean War. There is no direct mail, telephone service or other form of communication between ordinary citizens across the border, as the two Koreas remain technically at war.